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BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1964

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS, 1964.

Medical Officer of Health

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Chief Public Health Inspector


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Additional Public Health
Inspector

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BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
of Wenlock Corporation.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the annual Report
for the year 1964.

This follows the same general lines as in previous years,
and contains all the data required by the Ministry of Health.

For their valuable contributions towards the
preparation of the Report, my very grateful thanks are
due to the Public Health Inspectors, Mr. J. I. McFall and
Mr. J. T. Cope, who provided all the information contained
in Section C. The assistance given by our clerical assistant,
Miss Griffiths, is also gratefully acknowledged.

I have the honour to be

Your Obedient Servant

MARGARET H. F. TURNBULL

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in acres	- 22,657
Estimated Population (mid-1964)	- 15,050
Number of Inhabited Houses	- 5,200
Rateable Value of District (at 1.4.65)	-£409,908
Estimated Product of 1d. Rate (at 1.4.65)	- 1,581

VITAL STATISTICS:

1. POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the district at mid-1964 was 15,050 - an increase of 30 on the corresponding estimate for 1963. This figure is employed in the calculation of the Birth and Death Rates for the area.

The natural increase in population for the year was 23 (i.e. the difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths).

2. BIRTHS.

(a) Live Births.

There were 237 live births in the Borough during 1964 - 6 less than in the previous year. Of this total, 13 were illegitimate. (5.5%)

The "Crude" Birth Rate for 1964 was 15.7 per 1,000 of the population, and the Standardised Birth Rate (comparable with the corresponding Standardised Rate for other area) was 16.4. This is rather below the national average for the year which was 18.4 live births per 1,000 of population.

Live Births, 1964.

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total Live Births
Male	118	6	124
Female	106	7	113
Total	224	13	237
Rate per 100 of pop.	14.9%	0.9%	15.7%

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of population - 15.7.
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 of population - 16.4.
Birth Rate for England and Wales, 1964 - 18.4.

(b) Still Births.

There were 4 still-births notified during 1964, two less than in the previous year.

The Still-Birth Rate was thus 16.6 per 1,000 total births (i.e. live births and still births combined). This is lower than our Still-Birth Rate for 1963 (24.1), and approximates closely to the national average for 1964 which was 16.3.

Still Births, 1964.

Male - 2
Female - 2
Total - 4

Still-Birth Rate, per 1,000 total births - 16.6.
Still-Birth Rate, per 1,000 total births
(England and Wales, 1964) - 16.3.

3. DEATHS.

214 inhabitants of the Borough died during 1964, 11 more than in the previous year.

The various causes of death are detailed in the Annual Return of the Registrar-General which appears below. Conditions affecting the Heart and Circulatory System again accounted for the greatest number of the deaths (50.5% of the total), and Malignant Disease was responsible for 17.8%. Of the 38 deaths from Malignant conditions, 9 were due to cancer of the lung or bronchus, (4 in 1963).

The Standardized Death-Rate for the year was 12.9 per 1,000 of the population, which is a little higher than the average for the country as a whole (11.3)

Deaths, 1964.

Male	-	120
Female	-	94
Total	-	214

"Crude" Death-Rate per 1,000 of population	- 14.2.
Standardised Death-Rate per 1,000 of population	- 12.9.
Death Rate for England and Wales, 1964.	- 11.3.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1964.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung or bronchus	9	-	9
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	6	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	6	17
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	27	36
Coronary disease, angina	19	6	25
Hypertension with heart disease	-	3	3
Other heart disease	18	12	30
Other circulatory disease	10	4	14
Influenza	2	-	2
Pneumonia	2	7	9
Bronchitis	10	5	15
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	10	24
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
All other accidents	6	2	8
Suicide	-	1	1
All causes	<u>120</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>214</u>

4. INFANT MORTALITY

6 infants under the age of 12 months died during 1964, 3 more than in 1963. All died during the first month of life and 5 during the first week.

The Infant Mortality Rate for the year was therefore 25.3 per 1,000 live births. This is just over double the corresponding Rate for this area in 1963, and is well above the 1964 national average.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 1964.

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	2	1	3
Female	3	-	3
Total	5	1	3
Rate per 1,000 related live births	21.1.	4.2	25.3

Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births	- 25.3
Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births (England and Wales, 1964)	- 20.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births	- 25.3
Neonatal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births (England and Wales, 1964)	- 13.8

5. MATERNAL MORTALITY.

No deaths associated with pregnancy or childbirth occurred in the Borough during the year under review.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

There were no material charges in the Health Services in the Borough during 1964.

1. HOSPITAL AND SPECIALIST SERVICES.

The Hospital and Specialist Services are provided and administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and its Hospital Management Committees.

The District is well served, being within easy reach of various general hospitals in the neighbourhood. Consultants from the larger centres hold regular out-patient clinics at the two small general hospitals at Broseley and Much Wenlock.

Tuberculosis cases are treated in Copthorne Hospital, or in Cross houses Hospital, and other Infectious Disease cases requiring isolation and hospital care are admitted to Copthorne Hospital or Monkmoor Children's Hospital.

The Beeches Hospital, Iron Bridge, takes the elderly and chronic sick and also has accommodation for mental defectives.

2. GENERAL MEDICAL, DENTAL, PHARMACEUTICAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY OPHTHALMIC SERVICES.

The Authority responsible for these services is the Salop Executive Council, Shrewsbury.

3. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES.

Salop County Council as Local Health Authority is responsible for the following "Personal" Health Services:

Care of mothers and young children.
Domiciliary Midwifery.
Health Visiting.
Home Nursing.
Vaccination and Immunisation.
Ambulance Service.
Prevention of illness, care and after-care.
Domestic Help Services.

(a) Maternal and Child Welfare.

There are four child Welfare Centres in the District where afternoon sessions are held as follows:

Victoria Institute, Broseley	- 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursdays
Severn Bank House, Iron Bridge	- Each Friday.
Welfare Centre, Church St. Madeley	- Each Wednesday.
British Legion Hall, Much Wenlock	- 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

(b) Welfare Foods.

The National Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin Tablets) are available at the Welfare Centres during clinic hours and at various conveniently situated distribution-points throughout the district.

(c) Domiciliary Midwifery, Health Visiting, Home Nursing.

Details of these services may be obtained from the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(d) Vaccination and Immunisation.

Under the County Council's scheme, vaccination against Smallpox, and Immunisation against Whooping-cough, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis may be carried out by arrangement with a general practitioner or at any Child Welfare Centre by appointment.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis is offered each year to all children aged 11 - 13 years who are found by preliminary testing to require this protection. Only very few parents refuse their consent for this procedure, which is carried out at the schools.

(e) Ambulance Services.

There were no changes in the Ambulance arrangements during the year. The Central Ambulance Depot for the County is in Shrewsbury (Tel. No. Shrewsbury 6331), and all calls for ambulances are dealt with centrally.

One ambulance is stationed in Much Wenlock for use on local journeys.

(f) Domestic Help Services.

The service of a Home Help is available in the words of the Act for 'any person who is ill, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age'.

There are no Domestic Help Offices in the Borough of Wenlock, the nearest being at Bridgnorth Welfare Centre (open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons), and at Wellington (42 Tan Bank).

The Aqueduct Sewerage Scheme was completed late in 1961, and a start was made in connecting premises to the sewer early in 1962 and during 1964 a further 11 premises were connected. Four premises only remained to be connected at the year end.

Grants were made to owners in respect of conversion of earth closets to water closets and connection of premises to the sewer. The average grant was £20 0. 0. Where the previous sanitary accommodation was shared, separate water closets were required.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse is collected by direct labour weekly throughout the Borough except in the outlying parts where the collection is fortnightly.

Three refuse tips are in use in the Borough; disposal is by tipping and surface dressing. The method of tipping leaves much to be desired but is mainly governed by finance. The refuse tip at Iron Bridge has a deep face which renders the control of rat and fly infestation most difficult to keep within reasonable limits and nuisance from tip fires is sometimes the cause of complaints.

(d) Rodent Control.

One Rodent operator is employed, spending two weeks of his time with the Borough of Wenlock and every third week with Bridgnorth Borough. This arrangement means that the Public Health Inspectors must deal with infestations needing urgent attention during this week. This arrangement is most unsatisfactory, since treatment of premises cannot always be followed through effectively.

Contracts for Rodent Control this year decreased by seven to twenty-three.

Refuse tips and sewage works are regularly inspected for the presence of rats and any infestation promptly dealt with. Sewers were test-baited twice during 1964 as required by the Ministry and the small infestations found were treated. The old culverts draining properties in Iron Bridge direct to the River Severn are a constant reservoir of rat infestation in this area. It is impossible to treat these sewers adequately, and in most instances not at all, because of the absence of manholes or other access points.

3. HOUSING

Number of inhabited house at 31.12.64	5,200
Number of Council owned houses	- 1,825
Number of Council houses completed in 1964	- 375
Council houses under construction at 31.12.64	- 95
Number of applications for discretionary improvement grants	- 25
Number of applications for standard improvement grants	- 6

SLUM CLEARANCE

The lack of a comprehensive housing survey in the Borough has meant that the slum clearance policy has not been based on any clearly defined programme. The best which could be done was to make surveys of defined areas where it was known that most of the houses were substandard. In these areas blocks of property were dealt with as Clearance Areas.

Some progress was made later in the year in making a preliminary survey of properties in the area regarding facilities provided i.e. water supply, baths, sinks, wash basins, sanitary conveniences, etc.

Housing within the Borough is the same problem, scaled down, of many Midland industrial cities. There are a large number of substandard houses from 100 - 150 years of age, and these have not always been well-maintained. Their replacement or improvement where possible is one of the most urgent needs of the district. I consider that the Council can be well satisfied, more especially in the Madeley Ward of their progress in dealing with their unfit houses over the last nine years. Much remains to be done in this direction however.

The following is the progress made during the year in respect of Clearance Areas:

Broseley Ward:

Leggs Alley (3 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 13.10.63

These houses were demolished in June, 1964.

Carvers Road/Hockley Road (5 Houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 20.9.63

All houses were vacated during the year.

Jackfield No. 1 (19 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 16.7.64

Four families rehoused during the year leaving three in occupation. Included in this Order were several derelict properties which had not been occupied for some years.

Jackfield No. 2 (6 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 25.6.64

Two families were rehoused during the year, two remaining.

Jackfield No. 3 (6 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 25.6.64.

All six families were rehoused during the year.

Park Lane, Madeley (9 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 19.7.61

The last two families were rehoused during the year. The property had not been demolished at the year end.

Aqueduct Bank, Madeley (9 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 12.9.61

Three families rehoused themselves and one was rehoused by the Council during the year. The property had not been demolished at the year end.

Blist Hill, Coalport (12 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 23.8.61

A further five families were housed in new Council Houses during the year. The remaining tenant requires a low rented house.

Lincoln Hill, Iron Bridge (9 Houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 10.8.61

The remaining two families were rehoused during the year and the houses demolished.

Park Lane, Madeley (7 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 1.3.63.

Two families remained to be rehoused at the year end.

Hodge Bower, Iron Bridge (3 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 9.1.63. following a Public Inquiry on 23.10.62.

One family remains.

Dale Road, Coalbrookdale (16 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 19.3.63

One family remains to be rehoused and one single person.

Woodside, Coalbrookdale (4 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 19.3.63

This property was demolished during the year.

Lincoln Hill/Paradise (18 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 27.3.63

Two families remain in occupation.

Bridle Road, Madeley (6 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 12.9.63

Four families were rehoused during the year leaving all houses vacant.

Madeley Wood No. 1 (19 houses)

Five houses were excluded from the Clearance Order when confirmed by the Ministry after a Public Enquiry on 16.9.64, as they were already subject to Demolition Orders.

Seven families were rehoused in 1964, five families remaining.

Madeley Wood No. 2 (3 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry 25.6.64

One family rehoused in 1964, two remaining.

Madeley Wood No. 5 (9 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry 16.9.64 after a Public Enquiry.

One family was rehoused during the year leaving three in occupation.

Madeley Wood No. 6 (7 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry 25.6.64.

One family was rehoused during the year leaving four in occupation.

Belmont Road, Iron Bridge (8 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry 25.6.64

Three families were rehoused during the year leaving three in occupation.

Individual Unfit houses

Action taken in the Borough under this heading in 1963 was as follows:

Houses demolished	20
Unfit houses closed	51
Undertakings from Landlords to make fit accepted	4

RENT ACT, 1957

No. of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	- 0
No. of applications approved	- 0
No. of proposals to Issue a Certificate of Disrepair	- 0
No. of Undertakings of Disrepair issued	- 0
No. of Undertakings received	- 0
No. of Repairs completed	- 0
No. of applications by Landlord for cancellation	- 0
No. of Certificates cancelled	- 0

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

On 31st December, 1964 there were 104 caravans in the Borough of Wenlock on 47 sites. Each was licensed under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

3. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat Inspection:

The table below gives details of the animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Borough during 1964:

	Cattle excluding cows and heifers	Cows and heifers	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
No. inspected	0101	2	-	519	280
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Some part or organ con- demned	6	-	-	-	12
Percentage affected	5.94	-	-	-	4.24
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Some part or organ con- demned.	-	-	-	-	4
Percentage affected	-	-	-	-	1.4
Cysticercosis	-	-	-	-	-

The total quantity of meat and offal condemned at the slaughterhouses was approx. 102 lbs.

All meat is inspected at each of the two slaughterhouses in the Broseley Ward. The two slaughterhouses comply with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958.

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

Due to refrigerators becoming faulty, large quantities of frozen foods and meat were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption. This unsound food from this source has markedly increased the amount of food normally condemned by the department.

Steps were taken to see that the food would not be used for human consumption.

The following foodstuffs were condemned in 1961, as unfit for human consumption and surrendered by the shopkeepers:

Beef	764 lbs.
Pork	197 lbs.
Mutton	132 lbs.
Miscellaneous frozen foods	162 lbs.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 and 1960.

Routine inspection of food premises continued to be made during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The Council is responsible, by the provisions of Part I of the Factories Act, 1937, for ensuring the adequacy and suitability of sanitary conveniences in all factories in the district, and in the case of factories in which mechanical power is not used, is also responsible for inspecting the premises to ensure that working conditions are satisfactory.

Part VIII of the Act also gives the Council the responsibility for ensuring that premises in which any persons are employed as out-workers are not injurious or dangerous to health.

The prescribed particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937, are set out separately at the end of the Report.

Destruction of Rats and Mice and other pests.

The Rodent Operator dealt with 354 complaints mainly of rat infestation, a few house mouse infestations and in the summer months a few complaints of wasps and insects.

SECTION D.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of cases of Infectious Disease were received during 1964.

Measles	170
Whooping-cough	13
Acute Pneumonia	11
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2
Meningococcal Infection	1
Scarlet Fever	1
	<hr/>
	198
	<hr/>

Apart from Measles which was prevalent amongst the child population during the 2nd and 3rd quarters of the year, the Borough remained fairly free of the Notifiable Infectious Diseases in 1964.

TUBERCULOSIS

Two new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were no deaths from this disease.

The following numbers of cases remained on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1964.

	<u>Respiratory Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis</u>
Male	55	14
Female	40	17
Total	<hr/> 95	<hr/> 31

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION

OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspection (3)	Number of Written notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
(a) Factories in which Secs. 1-4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	2	-	-
(b) Factories not included in (a) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	57	10	2	-
(c) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers premises)	20	8	1	-
Total	84	20	3	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By.H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage to floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
Aa) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work),	2	-	2	-	-
Total	5	3	2	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK
(Sections 110 & 111)

Nature of work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Stuffed Toys	-	-	-	-	-	-

